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Dorking Urban District Council



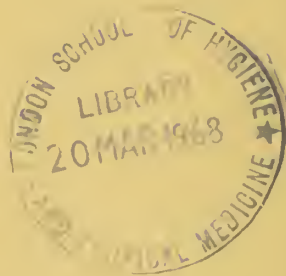
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1945

67392



Dorking Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

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WEST HILL HOUSE,
WEST HILL,
EPSOM.

December, 1946.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Dorking Urban District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you a report on the health of the district for 1945.

The vital statistics for the year are generally satisfactory. An outstanding feature is the very low infant mortality rate of 17.6 per 1,000 live births. Some of the tables are arranged in such a way as to compare the figures for the war years with those of the last years of peace. With the exception of the figures relating to tuberculosis they show no deterioration. Both the incidence rate and mortality rate of tuberculosis have tended to rise, a not unexpected result of the strain and food restrictions of the past years. With regard to the incidence rate, consideration must be given to improved ascertainment resulting in earlier and more frequent diagnosis. A larger proportion of the population than normally has been under regular medical supervision, and there has been an extended use of radiography to aid diagnosis.

It is a pleasure to record the efficient work of Dr. A. H. Gerrard, who has been responsible for the administration of the Civil Defence First Aid Service, and who has continued voluntarily to give valuable time and assistance in connection with the investigation and prevention of infectious diseases.

I also take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the work of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and of the willing and conscientious way in which the clerical staff of the department have carried out their duties.

I have received much encouragement, advice and assistance from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and from the Council generally, for which I tender my thanks. I am grateful for the co-operation which I have received from all Officers of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRUS IVE,
Medical Officer of Health.

Dorking Urban District Council

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

CYRUS IVE, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.),
D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health:

A. H. GERRARD, M.D., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

*D. ALLAN, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

*N. G. TUBB, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I. (H.M. Forces 1-9-39.)

Medical Officer of Health's Clerical Staff:

Senior Clerk: C. H. ARGENT. (Temporary.)

Shorthand Typist: Miss N. HEARN. (Temporary.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector's Clerical Staff:

D. S. BATES. (H.M. Forces 28-6-40.)

Miss P. CHURCHYARD. (Temporary.)

(The Medical Officer of Health and his Clerical Assistants act in a similar capacity for the Borough of Epsom and Ewell, the Urban District of Leatherhead and the Rural District of Dorking and Horley.)

* Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

TABLE I.—COMPARATIVE BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN THE YEAR 1945:—

| | <i>England and Wales.</i> | <i>Dorking Urban District.</i> |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population. | | |
| BIRTHS— | | |
| Live Births | 16.1 | 15.01 |
| Still Births | 0.46 | 0.37 |
| DEATHS— | | |
| All Causes | 11.4 | 12.3 |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Scarlet Fever | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Whooping Cough | 0.02 | 0.00 |
| Diphtheria | 0.02 | 0.00 |
| Influenza | 0.08 | 0.05 |
| Smallpox | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Measles | 0.02 | 0.00 |
| NOTIFICATIONS— | | |
| Typhoid Fever | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Paratyphoid Fever | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | 0.05 | 0.00 |
| Scarlet Fever | 1.89 | 0.63 |
| Whooping Cough | 1.64 | 0.37 |
| Diphtheria | 0.46 | 0.05 |
| Erysipelas | 0.25 | 0.27 |
| Smallpox | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Measles | 11.67 | 7.19 |
| Pneumonia | 0.87 | 0.27 |
| Rates per 1,000 Live Births. | | |
| DEATHS under 1 year of age | 46 | 17.6 |
| DEATHS from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age | 5.6 | 0.00 |
| Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still). | | |
| MATERNAL MORTALITY— | | |
| Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis | 0.49 | 0.00 |
| Other Maternal Causes | 1.22 | 0.00 |
| NOTIFICATIONS— | | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 9.93 | 13.75 |

Dorking Urban District Council

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1945

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Area (acres) | 9,511 |
| Population (Census 1931) | 15,204 |
| Population (estimated mid-year 1945) | 18,920 |
| Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate | |
| Books at 31st December, 1945 | 4,953 |
| Rateable value at 31st December, 1945... .. | £195,284 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | £782 12s. 5d. |

The district comprises a rectangular shaped area lying under the southern slopes of the North Downs, with an extension to the north which includes Box Hill and the valley of the River Mole as it passes through the Downs. The subsoil is chiefly sand, with chalk areas to the north and clay to the south, and with gravel and alluvial deposits in the river valley. There is a corresponding diversity of scenery and vegetation, downland merging into woodland and common. The town forms the natural centre for several villages and hamlets, and is situated on main road and railway line to London. It is a popular residential place, with agriculture, transport, brick-making, sand digging, and some light industry creating local employment.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

| | <i>Total.</i> | <i>M.</i> | <i>F.</i> | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| <i>Live Births:—</i> | | | | |
| Total live births | 284 | 149 | 135 | } Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population 15.01 |
| Legitimate ... | 247 | 127 | 120 | |
| Illegitimate ... | 37 | 22 | 15 | |
| <i>Still Births:—</i> | | | | |
| Total still births | 7 | 6 | 1 | } Rate per 1,000 live and still births ... 24.05 |
| Legitimate ... | 7 | 6 | 1 | |
| Illegitimate ... | — | — | — | |
| <i>Deaths (net) ...</i> | 234 | 117 | 117 | Crude death rate ... 12.37 |
| <i>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—</i> | | | | |
| Total infant deaths | 5 | 5 | — | |
| Legitimate ... | 4 | 4 | — | |
| Illegitimate ... | 1 | 1 | — | |

| | |
|---|------|
| Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births | 17.6 |
| Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 16.2 |
| Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 27.0 |

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

| | Deaths. | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---|
| Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis... | Nil | 0.00 |
| Other Maternal Causes | Nil | 0.00 |

Deaths from:—

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Measles (all ages) | Nil |
| Whooping Cough (all ages) | Nil |
| Diarrhoea (under two years of age) | Nil |
| Cancer (all ages) | 37 |

In Table II are collected, for comparative purposes, the birth, death and infant mortality rates for the period 1931-1945. The corresponding figures for England and Wales are also shown.

TABLE II. COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES 1931—1945.

| Period. | Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 live births. (Annual Rates 1940—1945) | | Average Annual Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population. (Annual Rates 1940—1945) | | Average Annual Death Rate of Children under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births. (Annual Rates 1940—1945) | |
|-----------|---|--------------|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| | England & Wales. | Dorking U.D. | England & Wales. | Dorking U.D. | England & Wales. | Dorking U.D. |
| 1931—1940 | 14.9 | 14.4 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 68 | 31.0 |
| 1940 | 14.6 | 12.9 | 14.3 | 13.6 | 55 | 37.3 |
| 1941 | 14.2 | 13.0 | 12.9 | 13.0 | 59 | 34.9 |
| 1942 | 15.8 | 16.7 | 11.6 | 12.8 | 49 | 30.4 |
| 1943 | 16.5 | 16.7 | 12.1 | 13.5 | 49 | 44.6 |
| 1944 | 17.6 | 20.5 | 11.6 | 13.9 | 46 | 42.0 |
| 1945 | 16.1 | 15.0 | 11.4 | 12.4 | 46 | 17.6 |

BIRTHS.

The total births accredited to the area by the Registrar General were 284, of which 149 were males and 135 females, representing a live birth rate of 15.0 per thousand of the estimated civilian population, compared with the rate of 16.1 for England and Wales. This is a drop of 5.5 per 1,000 on the rate for 1944, in which year the figures were exceptionally high.

The still-birth rate for the year is 0.37 per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population, compared with 0.46 for England and Wales.

DEATHS.

The deaths accredited to the area, after correction for the inward transfer of Dorking residents dying outside the district and the outward transfer of non-residents were 117 males and 117 females, a total of 234. This represents a crude death rate of 12.4 per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population, compared with the rate of 11.4 for England and Wales as a whole. The rate is 1.5 lower than in 1944.

The causes of death are set out in Table III.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DORKING URBAN DISTRICT.

| <i>Cause of Death.</i> | | | | | | <i>M.</i> | <i>F.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. | Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 2. | Cerebro-spinal Fever | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 3. | Scarlet Fever | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 4. | Whooping Cough | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 5. | Diphtheria | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 6. | Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| 7. | Other forms of Tuberculosis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | 2 | 2 |
| 8. | Syphilitic Disease | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 9. | Influenza | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | — | 1 |
| 10. | Measles | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 11. | Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 12. | Acute Infectious Encephalitis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 13. | Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males) | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | — | 1 |
| 13A. | Cancer of Uterus (females) | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | 2 | 2 |
| 14. | Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 15. | Cancer of Breast | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | 5 | 5 |
| 16. | Cancer of all other sites | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 14 | 8 | 22 |
| 17. | Diabetes | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | — | 4 |
| 18. | Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 11 | 14 | 25 |
| 19. | Heart Disease | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 23 | 33 | 56 |
| 20. | Other Diseases of the Circulatory System | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 9 | 10 | 19 |
| 21. | Bronchitis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| 22. | Pneumonia | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 23. | Other Respiratory Diseases | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 24. | Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 25. | Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 26. | Appendicitis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | 1 | 1 |
| 27. | Other Digestive Diseases | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 28. | Nephritis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 29. | Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 30. | Other Maternal Causes | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — | — |
| 31. | Premature Birth | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | — | 1 |
| 32. | Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 33. | Suicide | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 34. | Road Traffic Accidents | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 35. | Other Violent Causes | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 36. | All Other Causes | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 11 | 15 | 26 |
| | | | | | | 117 | 117 | 234 |

Reference to Table II shows that there has been a tendency for the death rate to rise slightly during the war years, while the rate for England and Wales has fallen. This is not necessarily evidence of a deterioration of local health conditions, but is probably due to the fact that a larger proportion of Dorking's population is to be found among the older age groups.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 5. The infant mortality rate is 17.6 per 1,000 live births, compared with a rate of 46 for England and Wales. Such a low figure would be worthy of note at any time: occurring in the last six years of war, it is striking evidence of maternal care, and of the increasing effectiveness of child welfare work and education.

2.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens taken by medical practitioners for bacterial examination in connection with the diagnosis of infectious diseases are sent to Dr. L. P. Chamberlain, Pathologist to the East Surrey and the Dorking & District Hospitals.

During the year 1945 the number of examinations made was as follows:—

| | |
|---|----|
| For the diagnosis of Diphtheria | 22 |
| „ „ „ „ Haemolytic Streptococcal infections | 23 |
| „ „ „ „ Tuberculosis | 12 |
| | — |
| | 57 |
| | — |

Laboratory examinations required to establish the diagnosis of suspected venereal disease in a communicable stage are arranged for under the Surrey County Council's Venereal Diseases Scheme.

Samples of milk, food and potable water are sent to the pathological department of the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(1) INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Cases of infectious disease are moved in the ambulance maintained by the Council at the Isolation Hospital. (Westcott 19.)

(2) NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES.—There are three ambulances available for the moving of general and accident cases. Two are garaged at the Fire Station (Dorking 2222) one of which is owned and staffed by the Council; the second owned by the British Red Cross Society and staffed by the Council assisted by members of the Society. The third ambulance is owned and staffed by the members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Tel. No.: Dorking 2155.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) GENERAL AND MATERNITY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY.—The Dorking Queen's District Nursing Association employs three nurse-midwives for general and maternity nursing and midwifery work in Dorking, North Holmwood, Westcott and Mickleham. Brockham is covered for both branches of nursing by the Brockham Nursing Association. Midwifery work is undertaken in this parish by the Betchworth and Leigh Nursing Association. Box Hill is included in the area of the Walton and Headley Nursing Association. There is one midwife in the district engaged in private practice.

(b) NURSING OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—There is no special provision for the home nursing of measles or other infectious diseases.

HOSPITALS.

(1) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The Council's Isolation Hospital is situated at Logmore Lane, Westcott. It provides 27 beds. One ward of nine beds was demolished by enemy action in 1944, no casualties being caused.

Accommodation for cases of smallpox is provided at the Surrey Smallpox Hospital, Clandon, which is maintained by the Surrey County Council.

The Surrey County Council is responsible for the provision of institutional treatment for persons suffering from tuberculosis.

(2) GENERAL AND MATERNITY.—The Dorking and District Hospital is a voluntary hospital, maintaining 32 beds and a children's ward. Medical and surgical cases are admitted, but not maternity cases.

The Dorking County Hospital, situated in Horsham Road, is maintained by the Surrey County Council, and with its annexe at Pixham End, has accommodation for 277 patients. There are acute and chronic medical wards, surgical wards, and a maternity block.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—The County Council is the responsible authority for these services. The County Council Health Centre is situated at Dene Street, Dorking.

(b) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—Clinics for immunisation against diphtheria are held by the Council's Medical Officer of Health at the County Council Health Centre, and with the assistance of the County Council Health Visitors. Further information regarding diphtheria immunisation is given in the section of this report dealing with infectious diseases.

(c) SCABIES.—The treatment of this condition is undertaken in the Out-patients department of the Dorking County Hospital.

(d) TUBERCULOSIS.—The County Council is the authority responsible for the provision and supervision of treatment. The Tuberculosis Officer holds clinics at the Dene Street Health Centre.

(e) **VENEREAL DISEASES.**—The County Council is responsible for the provision of diagnostic and treatment centres. None are situated in this area, but those most convenient are noted in list of clinics.

A time-table of clinics available is set out below:—

| | | | |
|--|-----|--|--|
| <i>Ante-natal Clinic</i> | ... | Dorking County Hospital. | Friday, 9.30 a.m. |
| <i>Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics</i> | (1) | S.C.C. Clinic, Dene Street, Dorking. | Monday and Tuesday after- noons, 2—4 p.m. |
| | (2) | The Village Hall, Brockham. (Voluntary). | 1st and 3rd Fridays at 2 p.m. |
| | (3) | The Reading Room, Westcott. | 2nd and 4th Mondays at 2 p.m. |
| | (4) | The Brodie Hall, Box Hill. | 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 2 p.m. |
| <i>General School Medical Minor Ailments Clinics</i> | | S.C.C. Clinic, Dene Street, Dorking. | Tuesdays, 9.30—12 noon. |
| <i>Dental Clinic</i> | ... | S.C.C. Clinic, Dene Street, Dorking. | By Appointment. |
| <i>Eye Clinic</i> | ... | S.C.C. Clinic, Dene Street, Dorking. | By Appointment. |
| <i>Tuberculosis Dispensary</i> | | S.C.C. Clinic, Dene Street, Dorking. | 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 10 a.m. |
| <i>Scabies Treatment Clinic</i> | | Dorking County Hospital, Out-patients Department. | Monday and Thursday, 1.30 p.m. |
| <i>Venereal Diseases Clinics</i> | | Royal Surrey County Hospital, Out-patients Department. | Males— Tuesday and Friday, 5—7 p.m. Saturdays, 9.30—11.30 a.m. |
| | | | Females— Monday, 2—7 p.m., and Thursday, 9.30— 11 a.m. |
| | | Redhill County Hospital, Earlswood Common. | Males— Wednesday, 5—7 p.m. |
| | | | Females— Mondays, 5—7 p.m. |

(And at the Out-patient Departments of many London Hospitals.)

| | | | |
|--|-----|---|---|
| <i>Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics</i> | (1) | S.C.C. Clinic, Dene Street, Dorking. | 1st Wednesday in each month at 10 a.m. |
| | (2) | At Brockham, by application to Dr. J. H. Arthur, Noy's End, Brockham. | |
| | (3) | At Westcott. | |
| | (a) | At Infant Welfare Centre, The Reading, Westcott. | 2nd and 4th Monday at 2 p.m. |
| | (b) | By application to Dr. H. C. Billings, Westcott. | 1st Tuesday in each month at 10 a.m. |

There are two companies which undertake the supply of water to the district. Mickleham, Box Hill and Brockham are supplied by the East Surrey Water Company, and the remainder of the area by the Dorking Water Company.

The Dorking Water Company obtains its water from a series of fifteen wells situated a little to the south of the Pippbrook stream shortly before it reaches the western outskirts of Dorking. The boreholes extend to a depth of 130 feet into the Folkestone beds, from which the water is siphoned to a reservoir situated at the works. After chlorination it is pumped to covered service reservoirs.

DORKING WATER COMPANY.

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Appearance: Bright with very few particles of mineral debris. | Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 27°C. | 0.005 |
| Turbidity: Less than 5 parts per million, Silica Scale. | Metals | Absent |
| Colour Normal | " Free Chlorine reaction " | Absent |
| Reaction pH—On the acid side of neutrality ... | Odour | Nil |
| Electric Conductivity at 20°C. | Free Carbonic Acid | 2.9 |
| Chlorine in Chlorides... | Total Solids, dried at 180°C. | 22.0 |
| Hardness: Total | Alkalinity as Calcium | |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates... | Carbonate | 10.0 |
| Free Ammonia... | Temporary 8.0 Permanent | 7.0 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia ... | Nitrites | Absent |
| | Ammoniacal Nitrogen | — |
| | Albuminoid Nitrogen | — |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Number of " Bacteria " | growing on Agar | per c.c. or ml. | in 1 day at 37°C. | ... | 0 |
| " " | " " | " " | per c.c. or ml. | in 2 days at 37°C.... | 0 |
| " " | " " | " " | per c.c. or ml. | in 3 days at 20°C.... | 2 |
| The Bacillus Coli ... | Present in | — | Absent in | 100 c.c. | |
| Presumptive Coliform Reaction... | " " | — | " " | 100 c.c. | |
| Cl. Welchii Reaction ... | " " | — | " " | 100 c.c. | |

EAST SURREY WATER COMPANY.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000.

| | | |
|--|---|------------------|
| Appearance: Bright—very slight film deposit of mineral debris consisting of chalk particles. | Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. | 0.005 |
| Turbidity: Less than 5 parts per million, Silica Scale. | Metals | Absent |
| Colour | " Free Chlorine reaction " ... | 0.25 |
| Reaction pH—Alkaline | | part per million |
| Electric Conductivity at 20°C. | Odour | Nil |
| Chlorine in Chlorides | Free Carbonic Acid | Absent |
| Hardness: Total | Total Solids, dried at 180°C. ... | 16.0 |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates... .. | Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate ... | 4.5 |
| Free Ammonia | Temporary 2.5 Permanent ... | 6.0 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia | Nitrogen in Nitrites | Absent |
| | Ammoniacal Nitrogen | — |
| | Albuminoid Nitrogen | — |

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

(Bacteriological sample dechlorinated on collection).

| | |
|--|----------|
| Number of " Bacteria " growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in 1 day at 37°C. ... | 0 |
| " " " " " per c.c. or ml. in 2 days at 37°C.... | 0 |
| " " " " " per c.c. or ml. in 3 days at 20°C.... | 0 |
| Presumptive Coliform Reaction... Present in — Absent in | 100 c.c. |
| Bact. Coli | 100 c.c. |
| Cl. Welchii Reaction | 100 c.c. |

As will be seen by the following figures, the great majority of houses are provided with a piped water supply delivered internally:—

| | |
|--|-------|
| Dwelling-houses supplied by wells | 3 |
| " " " " standpipes | 22* |
| " " " " piped main supply | 4,922 |
| " " " " piped private supply | 3 |
| " " " " other means | 3 |

* In addition there are several camp sites in the district where, owing to the housing shortage, temporary structures are being permanently occupied. The water supply in all these cases is from standpipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are two sewage disposal works within the area, situated at Pixham Lane and at Brockham. The Pixham Lane works consist of settling tanks, filters and humus tanks, the effluent being discharged into the River Mole. Sludge is disposed of on the lower slopes of Box Hill, to which it is forced by compressed air through pipes from the works.

The Brockham works deal with sewage from Brockham, North Holmwood, and adjacent points of the Dorking and Horley Rural District. They consist of detritus tanks, settling tanks, percolating filters and

humus tanks, the effluent being discharged into the River Mole. Sludge is dealt with in digestion tanks. Difficulty has been experienced at these works in consequence of a large amount of surface water entering the main outfall sewers from North Holmwood in wet weather.

Box Hill is the only inhabited area of any size which is not sewered.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse is collected weekly, and disposed of partly by incineration, and partly by tipping at abandoned sewage works in Westcott and North Holmwood.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

I am indebted to Mr. Donald Allan, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for particulars of the work performed under his supervision during 1945.

INSPECTIONS AND RE-INSPECTIONS UNDER HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, ETC.

| <i>Premises.</i> | <i>Number.</i> |
|---|----------------|
| Dwelling-houses | 731 |
| Camp Sites | 27 |
| Vans, Tents and Sheds | 801 |
| Shops | 172 |
| Slaughter-houses | 15 |
| Butchers' shops | 88 |
| Dairies | 20 |
| Cowsheds | 8 |
| Milkshops | 9 |
| Bakehouses | 2 |
| Factories with mechanical power | 13 |
| Factories without mechanical power | 1 |
| Food Preparation Rooms | 113 |
| Infected premises | 18 |
| Offices | 3 |
| Swimming Pools | 2 |
| Other premises | 37 |
| In connection with Rodent Control | 1,847 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 3,907 |
| | <hr/> |

Complaints in respect of 241 premises were received, but by the 31st December, 1945, it had only been possible to deal with 203.

CONDITIONS FOUND TO REQUIRE THE SERVICE OF NOTICES
AND THE RESULTS OF ACTION TAKEN.

| | <i>Found.</i> | <i>Conditions Remedied.</i> |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Defective roofs | 33 | 23 |
| Defective eavesgutters | 11 | 3 |
| Defective downpipes | 8 | 1 |
| Dampness in walls, ceilings and floors | 21 | 6 |
| Defective brickwork | 9 | 3 |
| Defective plastering | 22 | 8 |
| Defective chimneys | 4 | 2 |
| Defective window sills | 6 | — |
| Defective window frames | 14 | 5 |
| Defective sashcords and fasteners | 11 | 4 |
| Defective floors | 26 | 15 |
| Defective doors | 8 | 4 |
| Defective W.C. pedestals | 8 | 6 |
| Defective W.C. cisterns | 17 | 6 |
| Defective drains | 17 | 26 |
| Defective water supply pipes | 8 | 4 |
| Defective sinks and waste pipes | 3 | 1 |
| Defective sink waste pipes | 3 | 2 |
| Defective fireplaces | 5 | 1 |
| Defective kitchen ranges and ovens | 12 | 3 |
| Defective washboilers | 9 | 2 |
| Defective water storage cistern | 1 | — |
| Overflowing cesspools | 2 | 2 |
| Defective yard and passages... .. | 4 | 1 |
| Verminous premises | 14 | 17 |
| Accumulations of refuse | 4 | 3 |
| Defective ashbins | 103 | 61 |
| Defective vent to soil pipes | 1 | — |
| Decorations required | 9 | 4 |
| Defective pail closets | 2 | — |
| Defective bannister | 1 | — |
| Defective stairtreads and risers | — | 1 |

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

| | <i>Informal.</i> | <i>Formal.</i> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Public Health Act, 1936. | | |
| Served | 152 | 1 |
| Complied with | 97 | 1 (by Local Authority in default). |
| Housing Act, 1936. | | |
| Served | 56 | — |
| Complied with | 26 | — |
| Factories Act, 1937. | | |
| Served | 1 | — |
| Complied with | 1 | — |

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

The Common Lodging House, containing beds for 32 persons (all males), was maintained in a reasonable condition.

DISINFESTATION.

As a result of complaints and inspections 14 fresh premises (none of which were Council houses) were found to be verminous, and disinfestations were successfully carried out in all cases.

Treatment:—

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| With Zaldecide and blowlamp | 10 |
| With Zaldecide only | 4 |
| Total | 14 |

RODENT CONTROL.

In November, 1944, the Council accepted delegated powers under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. A full-time Rodent Operator was appointed to work under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, and after training, he commenced his duties in January, 1945. It is possible, therefore, to review the first full year's working.

This may be summarised as follows:—

| | |
|--|-------|
| Number of complaints received from public: Rats | 87 |
| Mice | 6 |
| Number of inspections and re-inspections by Rodent Operator | 1,847 |
| Number of premises where treatment was completed by L.A.'s Operator during the year | 102 |
| Number of premises where maintenance treatment was carried out at regular intervals (<i>e.g.</i> , refuse tips, sewage disposal works, etc.) | 9 |
| Number of premises where treatment was carried out by occupier under advice | 2 |
| Number of premises referred to other bodies (<i>e.g.</i> , Surrey County Council, Surrey War Agricultural Executive Committee, and Southern Railway) | 4 |
| Estimated number of rats killed (using Ministry of Food formula) | 2,124 |

The premises treated may be classified under the following headings:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Dwelling-houses | 75 |
| Restaurants, etc. | 8 |
| Shops:—Butchers | 3 |
| Grocers | 2 |
| Others | 2 |
| Warehouses | 4 |
| Contractors Yards | 2 |
| Bakehouses | 2 |
| Offices | 2 |
| Council's Destructor | 1 |
| Refuse Tips | 6 |
| Banks of streams | 2 |
| Isolation Hospital | 1 |
| Sewage Disposal Works... .. | 1 |

In addition to the above, a small section of surface water sewer was treated twice.

The soil sewers were test baited in accordance with the Ministry of Food's recommendation—10% of manholes. Only two small sections were found to be infested, and treatment was limited to these sections.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

During the year, 172 inspections of shops were made. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928.

There are no premises in the district where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The only pools open to the public were two privately owned ones, both of which have modern chlorinating plants capable of keeping the water in a satisfactory state of purity.

SCHOOLS.

In consequence of the action taken in the preceding year, additional wash-basins and two drinking fountains were provided at St. Martin's School, West Street. More towels were also made available for the use of the scholars.

CAMPING SITES IN AREA.

The number of camping sites in respect of which licences were issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is 12. In addition, three licences "to erect, station, or use a movable dwelling" were issued.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

(1) Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors:—

| Premises. (1) | Inspections. (2) | Written Notices. (3) | Occupiers Prosecuted. (4) |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Factories with mechanical power ... | 13 | 1 | — |
| Factories without mechanical power... | 1 | — | — |
| Other premises under the Act ... (including works of buildings and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises). | — | — | — |
| <i>Total</i> | 14 | 1 | — |

DEFECTS FOUND.

| Particulars. (1) | Number of Defects. | | | Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5) |
|--|--------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| | Found. (2) | Remedied. (3) | Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4) | |
| Want of cleanliness (S. 1) | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding (S. 2) | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)— | | | | |
| Insufficient | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Unsuitable or defective | — | — | — | — |
| Not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences | — | — | — | — |
| (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.) | | | | |
| Total | 1 | — | 1 | — |

4.—HOUSING.

I.—*Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:*

| | | |
|--------|--|------|
| 1. (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 400 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | 731 |
| 2. (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 81 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | 191 |
| 3. | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil. |
| 4. | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 207 |

II.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 123 |
|--|-----|

III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

| | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) By owners | Nil. |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil. |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

| | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: | |
| (a) By owners | Nil. |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil. |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

| | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil. |

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

| | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil. |

IV.—Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding:

While no complete details as to the present extent of overcrowding in the district are available, the number of cases found during the year indicates that a large amount of overcrowding exists, the full extent of which cannot be ascertained without a complete survey. Where cases were found reports were submitted to the Housing Committee with a view to some priority being given in the allocation of accommodation as and when available.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK.

The number of purveyors of milk is 31. Of these, 16 are retailers, 10 working from premises within the district, and six coming into the area from other districts. There are 16 producers of milk, of these three herds are licensed for the production of Tubercular-tested milk, and eight for accredited milk.

There are no licensed pasteurising plants.

DESIGNATED MILK SUPPLY.

The following licences for the sale of designated milks, granted by the Dorking Urban District Council, were in operation during the year:—

| | |
|--|---|
| Dealer's Licence to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk, bottled by the Dealer | 1 |
| Dealer's Licence to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk obtained by the Dealer in bottles | 2 |
| Dealer's Licence to sell "Pasteurised" milk | 1 |
| Supplementary Licence to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk | 2 |
| Supplementary Licence to sell "Pasteurised" milk | 3 |

MILK SAMPLES.

During the year 36 samples were taken of milk supplied in the Urban District, and the following summary of results is given:—

(i) UNDESIGNATED MILK.

| Sample No. | Bacteria per 1 m.l. | B. Coli in | | | Methylene 'Blue Reductase Test. | Biological Test. |
|------------|---------------------|------------|------|-------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| | | 0.1 | 0.01 | 0.001 | | |
| 1. | 4,800 | — | — | — | Satisfactory. | Passed. |
| 2. | 5,600 | — | — | — | do. | — |
| 3. | 25,600 | — | — | — | do. | Passed. |
| 5.* | 30,800 | — | — | — | do. | — |
| 7. | 12,800 | — | — | — | do. | Passed. |
| 8.* | 17,800 | — | — | — | do. | Passed. |
| 9.* | 53,600 | — | — | — | do. | Passed. |
| 10.* | 18,000 | — | — | — | do. | Passed. |
| 11.* | 7,600 | — | — | — | do. | Passed. |
| 12. | 5,200 | — | — | — | do. | Passed. |
| 13. | 5,900 | — | — | — | do. | — |
| 17.* | 1,230,000 | — | — | — | Unsatisfactory (4 hrs.). | Failed. |
| 18.* | 76,000 | — | — | — | Satisfactory. | Passed. |
| 20.* | 248,000 | — | — | — | Unsatisfactory (3½ hrs.). | Failed. |
| 22. | 32,600 | — | — | — | Satisfactory. | — |
| 23. | 69,200 | — | — | — | do. | Passed. |
| 25. | 16,000 | — | — | — | Unsatisfactory (3 hrs.). | Passed. |
| 26. | 144,000 | — | — | — | Unsatisfactory (1 hr.). | Passed. |
| 27.* | 13,200 | — | — | — | Satisfactory. | Passed. |
| 32.* | 10,400 | — | — | — | do. | Passed. |
| 33.* | 34,400 | — | — | — | do. | Passed. |
| 34.* | 19,200 | — | — | — | do. | Passed. |

* Produced outside the area.

(ii) PASTEURISED MILK.

| Sample No. | Bacteria per 1 m.l. | B. Coli | | | Methylene Blue Reductase Test. | | Phosphatase Test. |
|------------|---------------------|---------|------|-------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| | | 0.1 | 0.01 | 0.001 | | | |
| 4.* | 600 | — | — | — | — | Satisfactory. | 1.9 L.U. |
| 6.* | 300 | — | — | — | — | do. | 2.0 L.U. |
| 14.* | 38,400 | — | — | — | — | do. | 2.1 L.U. |
| 15.* | 10,000 | — | — | — | — | do. | 1.9 L.U. |
| 16.* | 3,100 | — | — | — | — | do. | 2.0 L.U. |
| 19.*† | 27,400 | — | — | — | Satisfactory. | Poor. | 20 L.U. |
| 21.* | 18,400 | — | — | — | do. | Satisfactory. | 1.8 L.U. |
| 24.* | 1,100 | — | — | — | Failed after 5½ hrs. | Failed. | 3.5 L.U. |
| 28.* | 56,000 | — | — | — | Satisfactory. | Satisfactory. | 2.3 L.U. |
| 29.* | 1,400 | — | — | — | do. | Failed. | 3.0 L.U. |
| 30.* | 10,400 | — | — | — | do. | Satisfactory. | 2.3 L.U. |
| 30A.* | 3,300 | — | — | — | do. | do. | 2.3 L.U. |
| 31.* | 28,000 | — | — | — | do. | do. | 3.1 L.U. |
| 31A.* | 10,400 | — | — | — | do. | do. | 2.3 L.U. |

† Subsequently found to be raw milk which had not been submitted to any treatment.

* Produced outside the area.

BIOLOGICAL TESTS.

Sixteen samples of milk were submitted for examination by the guinea-pig test. Fourteen were satisfactory, one revealed evidence of tuberculosis, and one had to be cancelled as the inoculated animal died from natural causes. Information regarding the positive test was forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health, and subsequent information was received that examination of the herd in question by Ministry of Agriculture veterinary surgeons revealed the presence of an infected cow, the infection being confirmed on slaughter.

(b) MEAT.

At the premises formerly used by the Ministry of Food as a central slaughter-house, the following animals, all of which were for "casualty" slaughter, were killed and inspected:—

| Bulls. | Calves. | Swine. |
|------------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| 1. | 1. | 3. |
| <i>Found to be diseased.</i> | | |
| Entire carcase of calf | | 44 lbs. (immature). |
| One leg of pork | | 6 lbs. (injured). |

It was found necessary to draw the attention of the Ministry of Food to the state of meat delivered to premises in the district. Considerable manurial contamination indicated very careless handling and lack of cleanliness in the slaughter-house, outside the district, where the carcasses had been dressed.

(c) OTHER FOODS.

Examination revealed that the following foodstuffs were unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:—

| Commodity. | Tins. | Nos. | Pkts. | Jars. | Weight. | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|---------|-------|------|------|
| | | | | | Tons. | Cwts. | Qrs. | Lbs. |
| Canned Meat | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 6½ |
| Canned Fish | 498 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Canned Vegetables | 444 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Canned Milk | 2,267 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Canned Soup | 43 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Preserves (Jams, etc.) ... | 19 | — | — | 20 | — | — | — | — |
| Beef | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 4½ |
| Veal | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 15 |
| Pork | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Sausages | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 10 |
| Fish | — | — | — | — | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| Vegetables | — | — | — | — | — | 11 | 3 | 18 |
| Butter | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 11½ |
| Sugar | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 11 |
| Tea | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1¾ |
| Dried Fruit | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 14¾ |
| Dried Vegetables | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 2 | 18 |
| Eggs | — | 542 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cheese | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 19½ |
| Bacon | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Cereals | — | — | — | — | — | 10 | 3 | 17 |
| Shredded Beef Suet | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 11½ |
| Salt | — | — | 48 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Miscellaneous Savouries ... | — | — | — | 13 | — | — | — | — |
| Dried Pudding | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 3,271 | 542 | 49 | 33 | 3 | 16 | 3 | 4 |

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the administrative authority for the sections of the Food and Drugs Act dealing with adulterations. Information has been received that during the year thirty-seven samples were taken for analysis, of which twenty were of milk, nine of wine, three of confectionery or jam, three of spirits, one of sausages and one of drugs. Three samples of milk, six of wine and one of spirits were found to be adulterated or deteriorated. On two occasions legal proceedings were taken and convictions obtained in one case for adulteration of milk, and in the other for adulteration of wine.

6.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Table IV shows the total of the various infectious diseases notified during 1945, classified according to age and sex, together with the number of cases removed to isolation hospital and the total deaths, if any, from each disease.

SMALLPOX.—No case of smallpox was notified during the year. No primary vaccination or re-vaccination was performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

SCARLET FEVER.—A considerable decrease was shown in the incidence of this infection during the year, in which twelve notifications were received, compared with eighty-three in 1944. The case-rate was 0.63 per 1,000 civilian population, compared with 1.89 for England and Wales. All patients were admitted to the Council's isolation hospital for treatment. In addition one suspected case of scarlet fever was admitted, but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

DIPHTHERIA.—One case of diphtheria was notified. The patient was a bacteriologist, and, in the absence of contrary evidence, it is presumed that the infection was contracted at the place of employment. Other than this exceptional case, no other notification was received, a good record only beaten by the year 1944, in which no case of diphtheria occurred. The case-rate for the year was 0.05, compared with 0.46 for England and Wales.

The downward tendency of diphtheria incidence and mortality rates will be noticed on reference to Table V, in which are tabulated the yearly figures since 1934. In my opinion this satisfactory feature is the result of several factors, of which I consider the more important to be the improved general care of children's health, both in the home and at school; the speedy and effective steps taken in co-operation by medical practitioners, the school medical authority and the local public health department in detecting and isolating suspected sources of infection; and, particularly in the last few years, in the controlled production of immunisation by appropriate treatment.

TABLE IV.

| Disease | Cases Notified.. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total all ages both sexes | Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital | Deaths |
|------------------------|------------------|---|--------|----|--------|----|---------|----|----------|---|----------|---|-------------|---|----------|----|------------------------------|---|--------|
| | Under 1 yr. | | 1 to 3 | | 3 to 5 | | 5 to 10 | | 10 to 15 | | 15 to 25 | | 25 and over | | All ages | | | | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | | | |
| Scarlet Fever ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 9 | 3 | 12 | 12 | — |
| Whooping Cough ... | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | — |
| Measles ... | — | 1 | 15 | 16 | 12 | 15 | 35 | 17 | 10 | 7 | 1 | 6 | — | — | 1 | 73 | 63 | 136 | 9 |
| Diphtheria ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| Erysipelas ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 | — |
| Interperal Pyrexia ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 3 | — | 4 | 4 | — |
| Ophthalmia ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Neonatorum ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| Encephalitis ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Lethargica ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |

TABLE V.—INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN DORKING
URBAN DISTRICT, 1934-1945.

| Year. | No. of Cases Notified. | Incidence Rate per 1,000 Population. | No. of Deaths. | Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population. | No. of Children Immunised in each Year. |
|----------|------------------------------|---|-------------------|---|--|
| 1934 ... | 1 | 0.06 | — | 0.00 | — |
| 1935 ... | 4 | 0.24 | 1 | 0.06 | 116 |
| 1936 ... | 19 | 1.14 | 2 | 0.12 | 32 |
| 1937 ... | 4 | 0.24 | — | 0.00 | 124 |
| 1938 ... | 2 | 0.12 | 1 | 0.06 | 53 |
| 1939 ... | 4 | 0.22 | 2 | 0.11 | 238 |
| 1940 ... | 3 | 0.15 | — | 0.00 | 124 |
| 1941 ... | 3 | 0.14 | — | 0.00 | 700 |
| 1942 ... | 1 | 0.05 | — | 0.00 | 637 |
| 1943 ... | 1 | 0.05 | — | 0.00 | 690 |
| 1944 ... | — | 0.00 | — | 0.00 | 288 |
| 1945 ... | 1 | 0.05 | — | 0.00 | 344 |

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The Council's scheme to promote active immunisation against diphtheria has been in operation since 1935. Clinics are held in collaboration with the Surrey County Council at the Health Centre in Dene Street, Dorking. For Box Hill residents treatment can be obtained locally at the Infant Welfare Centre held at regular intervals in the Brodie Hall. Brockham and Westcott residents can obtain treatment locally at the Council's expense, by application to Dr. J. H. Arthur, of Brockham, and Dr. H. C. Billings, of Westcott. At Westcott facilities are also available at the newly opened Infant Welfare Centre.

Some parents may prefer their children to be treated by their own doctors. In such cases the immunising material can be supplied free of charge, the fee for the treatment being a matter for private arrangement between the parents and the practitioner.

During the year, 344 children are known to have received treatment. 226 were aged 1 to 2 years, representing 59% of the 381 births accredited to the district in 1944.

At the end of 1945, 874 children under the age of 5 years, and 1,972 aged 5 to 15 years, are recorded as having completed treatment, equivalent to percentages of 58 and 75 respectively of the estimated total child population of the corresponding age groups.

The ideal is for every child to receive a primary treatment of two injections at about the age of one year, with further single injections at five and ten years. It is not claimed even with such treatment that absolute immunisation will be attained by every child, but there is clear evidence that the risk of an untreated child contracting diphtheria is four times as great as that of a treated child, and that the risk of death from the disease is nearly thirty times as great.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Four notifications of puerperal pyrexia were received, giving a case-rate of 13.75 per 1,000 live and still births, compared with 9.93 for England and Wales.

Three of the four notifications were received from the maternity department of the Dorking County Hospital, and related to patients who were normally resident outside of the Dorking Urban District.

The Surrey County Council is the authority for Maternity and Child Welfare and in its scheme provides for any necessary institutional treatment, for the obtaining of consultant's opinion, and for any bacteriological examinations required in the investigation and treatment of puerperal infections.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-one names were added to the tuberculosis register during the year, bringing the total to 126. They include nineteen of persons already domiciled in the district, twelve of persons who came to live here from other areas in which they had already been notified. Twenty-four of the notifications related to the pulmonary form of the disease, and seven to non-pulmonary. Sixteen of the persons affected were between the ages of twenty-five and forty-five years. Eleven deaths occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis, representing an annual death rate of 0.58 per thousand population, and two deaths were caused by non-pulmonary tuberculosis with a death rate of 0.11, giving a total tuberculosis death rate of 0.69, compared with a rate of 0.62 for England and Wales. Three of the deaths occurred in unnotified cases.

An analysis into types of disease and age groups is to be found in Table VI.

TABLE VI.

| Age Period. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| | Pulmonary. M. F. | | Non- pulmonary. M. F. | | Pulmonary. M. F. | | Non- pulmonary. M. F. | |
| Under 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 to 5 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 5 „ 10 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| 10 „ 15 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 15 „ 20 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 20 „ 25 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| 25 „ 35 | 4 | 4 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| 35 „ 45 | 5 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| 45 „ 55 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| 55 „ 65 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| 65 and upwards | 2 | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — |
| Totals | 16 | 8 | — | 7 | 6 | 5 | — | 2 |

For comparative purposes, figures relating to the notification of and mortality from tuberculosis between the years 1938-45 are set out in Table VII, the notification figures being those for persons domiciled in the district at the time of diagnosis of the disease. The figures show a deterioration from 1940 onwards. No doubt the cause for this increase can be found in the anxious and fatiguing conditions of the war, in the difficulty of maintaining an accustomed diet scale, particularly in regard to fats, and in overcrowding. The increased incidence rate may also reflect improved methods of diagnosis, especially the increase of radiographical examinations, and regular medical supervision of service personnel and factory workers.

TABLE VII.—TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY, 1938-1945.

| Year. | Population. | Total Primary Notifications. | Rate per 1,000 Population. | Total Deaths. | Death Rate per 1,000 Population. |
|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 1938 ... | 17,110 | 15 | 0.88 | 5 | 0.29 |
| 1939 ... | 17,320 | 10 | 0.58 | 5 | 0.27 |
| 1940 ... | 20,510 | 19 | 0.92 | 8 | 0.39 |
| 1941 ... | 21,420 | 19 | 0.88 | 8 | 0.38 |
| 1942 ... | 19,170 | 15 | 0.78 | 8 | 0.40 |
| 1943 ... | 18,800 | 19 | 1.01 | 4 | 0.21 |
| 1944 ... | 18,600 | 20 | 1.08 | 7 | 0.38 |
| 1945 ... | 18,920 | 19 | 1.00 | 13 | 0.69 |

A proportion of the non-pulmonary cases probably incurred their illness from infected milk consumed without being submitted to effective heat treatment. In this connection it may be recalled that one of fifteen samples of milk taken in the course of distribution proved capable of carrying tuberculosis when injected into a guinea pig. For children especially, there is a strong case in favour of the provision of milk either efficiently heat-treated, or else obtained from licensed tubercular tested herds.

DORKING AND DISTRICT TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE.

I am indebted to the Secretary of the Care Committee for the following particulars of the work of the Committee during the year:—

Officers: Chairman, Mrs. Banbury (resigned in March), Mrs. Elithorn; Secretary, Mr. A. Paterson; Treasurer, Mr. A. R. Priest (Barclay's Bank); Medical Adviser, Dr. A. H. Campbell.

The Dorking and District Tuberculosis Care Committee met regularly during the year at the Chest Clinic, Dene Street, Dorking.

The Committee's income for the year was £300, against an expenditure of £320. The Balance in the Bank on 31st December, 1945, was £84. Help given to patients ranged from bedding, clothing and home comforts to convalescence, pocket money while in sanatoria, and fares for relatives to visit. Thirty-three patients were helped with extra nourishment. The Dorking Rotary Club made a generous gift of blankets and home comforts. Five new members were welcomed to the Committee, and the interest of the general public further showed itself in an increase in the amount raised from the sale of Christmas Seals.

The Dorking and District Tuberculosis Care Committee is a member of the Joint Standing Conference of Surrey Tuberculosis Care Committees, and is affiliated through them to the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

SCABIES.

During the year seventy-eight patients were treated for scabies infection at the Out-Patients Department of the Dorking County Hospital.

DISINFECTION.

Premises were disinfected after the following:—

| <i>Disease.</i> | | | | | <i>Premises disinfected.</i> | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------|---|---|
| Puerperal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | |
| Others | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | |
| Total | | | | | ... | 9 | — |

It is not customary in this district to disinfect premises and bedding after the removal of scarlet fever patients.

Bedding was disinfected after the following:—

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|---|
| Puerperal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Dermatitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Various | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | |
| Total | | | | | ... | 19 | — |

